Hours of meals to under-trial accused in jails.

* 1170-B Q.—Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) at what hour are the meals served to under-trial accused in His Majesty's jails;

(b) whether there is any rule fixing the hours;

(c) if so, whether that rule was observed in the case of the under-trial accused in the Trichinopoly railway strike conspiracy case;

(d) whether Messrs. Singaravelu Chetti and others were given meals at the appointed hour on the night of the 25th October;

(e) if not, when it was served and what were the reasons for departing from the usual hour; and

(f) whether the men concerned are consulted before making any such departure?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to rule 347 B II (2) to (4) of the Madras Jail Manual. Information is there given of the time at which meals are served during the day to Indian prisoners in jails. This rule applies to under-trial prisoners who do not get their food from private sources—vide rule 735, Jail Manual. In the case of under-trial prisoners who get their food privately they are served as soon as it is brought to the jail.

(c) The rules do not apply to the under-trial prisoners in question as they were getting their food from private sources.

(d) & (e) They got the meals as soon as they were handed over at the jail, viz., 9 p.m. There was no delay on the part of the jail staff.

(f) The question does not arise.

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"May I know, Sir, whether Comrade Singaravelu had every convenience due to the under-trial prisoners?

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Yes."

Progress of the Trichinopoly railway strike conspiracy case.

* 1170-C Q.—Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) when the enquiry in the Trichinopoly railway strike conspiracy case commenced;

(b) how many prosecution witnesses have been so far examined and how many remain to be examined; and

(c) what steps the Government have taken or propose to take to speed up examination of the witnesses?

A.—(a) 26th September 1928.

(b) One hundred and thirty-three witnesses. Twenty-two witnesses remain to be examined.

(c) The Government have taken and propose to take no steps in the matter.

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Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I know, Sir, how long this case is likely to go on and what will be the cost that the Government will have to incur on account of this trial ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I cannot say."

Jails

Employment of I.M.S. Officers as Superintendents of Jails.

* 1171 Q.—Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many officers of the I.M.S. are employed in the Jail Department in the Madras Presidency ;

(*b*) why I.M.S. officers who are Military doctors by profession are regarded by the Government as qualified to be Jail Superintendents ;

(*c*) whether I.M.S. officers before being posted to Civil work receive any training or have any experience of Jail administration ; and if so, what ;

(*d*) whether the Government of India consult the Local Government before deputing I.M.S. officers for jail work in the Presidency ; and

(*e*) whether the Government propose to represent to the authorities in Simla that it is undesirable in the interests of the administration to have doctors as Jail Superintendents ?

A.—(*a*) Five.

(*b*) High medical qualifications and a certain amount of military training are considered desirable for the superior posts in the Jail Department, viz., Superintendents of Central Jails and Inspector-General of Prisons.

(*c*) Before any Indian Medical Service Officer who has not had previous service in the Jail Department is appointed as Superintendent of a Central Jail he should undergo a comprehensive course of training under a selected Superintendent of a Central Jail for a period of three months.

(*d*) On the application of the Local Government the Government of India nominate an Indian Medical Service Officer for employment in the Jail Department of this Presidency.

(*e*) The answer is in the negative.

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—" In answer to clause (*c*), Sir, they say that a certain amount of military training is necessary. May I know from the hon. the Law Member for what reasons this military training is necessary ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" To keep control over the prisoners."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—" May I know whether it is the particular gentleman who keeps control over the prisoners or it is the subordinate who ought to have any kind of military training ? "